(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Central Government from time to time has exhorted the states to remain vigilant and step up enforcement operations and intensify action to check malpractices like hoarding, profiteering and blackmarketing. At the same time, the Central Government has impressed upon the State/U.T. Governments that they should be very careful and selective in the matter of launching prosecution and should not resort to prosecution in cases of small and technical offences where departmental actions can be taken.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Publication of the cost of Production on the packed commodities

3610. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to make the declaration and publication of the cost of production of commodities on the packages of the various consumer commodities ;

(b) if so, what is the exact proposal ;

(c) how far it will help in generating the consciousness in the public about the prices to be paid are not too high than the cost of production ; and

(d) whether some scientific format for calculating cost of production will be evolved lest producers wrongly show exhorbitant cost of production to keep prices high ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) (a) to (d) There has been a strong feeling expressed in the press and elsewhere that the actual sale prices of a number of prepacked commodities are far less than the price printed on the package. As the issue involved is complicated requiring a deeper study on a number of points like the element of freight, taxes, commission payable the type of retail shop where the product is sold etc., the Ministry has constituted an expert committee to recommend to the Government the best method of declaration of sale price on the packages.

Mobile ration distribution centres in Andhra Pradesh

3611. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to use mobile ration distribution centres for Public Distribution System items in remote villages;

(b) if so, details thereof ;

(c) the areas selected in Andhra Pradesh for this purpose; and

(d) by when it will be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) To supplement the efforts of the States/UTs to introduce mobile fair price shops to cover the consumer residing in hilly, remote, far-flung, desert, tribal and inaccessible areas, Central Government has been providing financial assistance for the purchase of vans to be operated as mobile fair price shops.

With the launching of the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) in about 1752 identified Blocks in 1992, the scheme for such financial assistance was modified to cover the use of such vans also for effecting doorstep delivery of commodities to the Fair Price Shops in RPDS areas.

(b) Since inception of the scheme in 1985-86 till 1993-94, financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 24.20 crores for the purchase of 810 vans has been provided to States/UTs.

(c) and (d) Andhra Pradesh Govt. has reported that transportation of commodities upto the fair price shops is already being done under Government supervision and have not reported operation of mobile fair price shops. Andhra Pradesh has been implementing a scheme on their own for this purpose. Central Government has, till 1993-94 provided financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 141 lacs for the purchase of 48 vans. The Revamped Public Dtistribution System is being implemented in 382 Mandals covered under the Drought Prone Area Programme and the Integrated Tribal Development Projects in Andhra Pradesh.

Inter-communication system between control room and Regional Distribution Centres of Super Bazar

3612. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1819 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 1994 and state :

(a) whether all the branches and Regional Distribution Centres have been connected with telephone with the control room of the Super Bazar, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the actual number of telephones installed in each Regional Distribution Centre and branch of Super Bazar and the amount spent thereon by the General Manager on account of telephone bills during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) if not, what is the mode of communication between the control room and different branches including Regional Distribution Centres and whether the information is conveyed through public call offices or by hiring public conveyance;

(d) if so, the details of the amount spent on account of P.C.O. calls, and conveyance charges paid to the respective Sales Assistants of each branch who visited the control room daily during the last three years; and

(e) the branch-wise break-up of profit earned by each branch during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES ,CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) All Regional Distribution Centres have telephone facility. Mini branches avail PCO facility.

(b) The details of actual number of telephones in the Regional Distribution Centres are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) In case of mini branches they communicate to Control Room through public call telephones.

(d)

Year	*Amount spent on PCO calls*
1990-91	Rs. 36227.20
1991-92	Rs. 47864.90
1992-93	Rs. 63741.60

No conveyance expenses are allowed for visiting Control Room.